

FOURTH EDITION



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RONALD BRUCE ST JOHN

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To Frances Bailey St John Mother, Teacher, Friend

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I. INTRODUCTION

At the outset of the One September Revolution in 1969, only a handful of books on Libya were available to the general reader. Fortunately, this situation improved over the next decade, in large part due to widespread interest in the policies of the revolutionary government led by Muammar al-Qaddafi. The economic sanctions imposed by the United States in the 1980s and by the United Nations in the 1990s later stifled field research in Libya, creating a new gap in scholarship. With the lifting of those sanctions, scholarly output on Libya has again increased.

In addition to the extensive bibliography found in this fourth edition of the *Historical Dictionary of Libya*, a relatively comprehensive, albeit increasingly dated, bibliography is available in volume 79 of the World Bibliographical Series, entitled *Libya* and compiled by Richard I. Lawless. Also useful is the volume entitled *A Concise Bibliography of Northern Chad and Fezzan in Southern Libya* (1983), edited by Mohamed A. Alawar. Older but still helpful bibliographies include *Libya, 1969–1974: A Bibliography*, edited by Aghil M. Barbar; *A Bibliography of Libya*, edited by Roy W. Hill; *The Middle East: A Selected Bibliography of Recent Works, 1970–1972 Supplement*, edited by

H. Howard; and *Index Libycus: Bibliography of Libya, 1957–1969, with Supplementary Material, 1915–1956*, edited by Hans Schlüter.

The best general introductions to contemporary Libya are Dirk Vandewalle's *Libya since Independence: Oil and State-Building* (1998) and *Libya's Qaddafi: The Politics of Contradiction* (1997) by Mansour O. El-Kikhia. Vandewalle concentrates on the domestic policies of the Qaddafi regime, while El-Kikhia covers both its domestic and foreign policies. *Qadhafi's Libya, 1969 to 1994*, edited by Dirk Vandewalle and published in 1995, is a companion volume to his fuller study and El-Kikhia's, providing background and detail to the broader issues raised in the later works. For those familiar with the French language, Edmond Jouve, provides a contemporary portrait of Qaddafi in *Mouammar Kadhafi: Dans le concert des nations* (2004). Guy Arnold's *Maverick State: Gaddafi and the New World Order* also remains useful, especially on external relations. In contrast, *Libya: The Struggle for Survival*, 2nd ed., by Geoff Simons is a conventional summary of Libyan history that adds nothing to earlier work by John Wright and others.

In *Libya: Qadhafi's Revolution and the Modern State*, Lillian Craig Harris provides a readable survey of Libyan geography, society, history, economics, and politics with a focus on the Qaddafi regime to 1986. *Libya: A Country Study*, edited by Harold D. Nelson and a part of the Area Handbook Series, is useful but dated. Another rewarding survey is *The Making of a Pariah State: The Adventurist Politics of Muammar Qaddafi* (1987) by Martin Sicker. French-language studies include *La Libye contemporaine* by Juliette Bessis and *La Libye nouvelle: Rupture et continuité*, edited by G. Albergoni et al. François Burgat and André Laronde, in *La Libye*, provide an overview of Libya suitable for the traveler or general reader.

An introduction to the early history of the region can be found in *History of the Maghrib* by Jamil M. Abun-Nasr; *The History of the Maghrib: An Interpretive Essay* by Abdallah Laroui; and *The North African Provinces from Diocletian to the Vandal Conquest* by B. H. Warmington. More specialized volumes include *The Garamantes of Southern Libya* by C. Daniels; *Antiquities of Tripolitania* by D. E. L. Haynes; and *The Coast of Barbary* by Jane Soames.

A variety of books exist on the period of Ottoman rule. The traditional studies include Ernest N. Bennett's *With the Turks in Tripoli*; Anthony Joseph Cachia's *Libya under the Second Ottoman Occupation, 1835–1911*; Godfrey Fisher's *Barbary Legend: War, Trade and Piracy in North Africa, 1415–1830*; and Ray W. Irwin's *Diplomatic Relations of the United States with the Barbary Powers, 1776–1816*. Richard B. Parker's *Uncle Sam in Barbary: A Diplomatic History* is a new addition to the literature. Parker relates historical events along the North Africa coast to contemporary issues in a well-researched and meticulously written book. Other recent studies on the same period include Franklin Lambert's *The Barbary Wars* and Richard Zacks's *The Pirate Coast*.